



Tempe Today



a community newsletter

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January 2008

Tax preparation assistance

Free tax preparation and electronic filing are available for qualified individuals and couples every Saturday from Jan. 26 through April 12 (except March 15) from 9 a.m. to noon at Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. and at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 S. Avenida del Yaqui. The Guadalupe site is open every Saturday from January 26 through April 12 (except March 22) from 9 a.m. to noon. Both sites provide Spanish translators.

Trained volunteer tax preparers certified by the IRS will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing for individuals earning \$35,000 or less per year and couples making \$55,000 or less per year. With electronic filing and direct deposit, taxpayers can expect refunds within 7-10 working days.

For the first time, taxpayers can split their refund and deposit it into more than one bank account. To split a refund, taxpayers need to bring their account numbers and bank routing numbers. Other items taxpayers must bring include:

- W-2 forms from every place you worked in 2007
- 1099 forms, if applicable
- Social Security cards for yourself and all dependents
- Picture identification
- A copy of last year's tax return
- Information for all deductions and credits

This program is made available through the Tempe Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Asset Development Initiative created by the partnership between the Tempe Community Council, the City of Tempe, Newtown Community Development Corporation, Tempe Schools Credit Union and the IRS. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/tcc/taxhelp/default.htm.



Charlie Meyer welcomed as new Tempe City Manager

Tempe Mayor and City Council welcomed Charlie Meyer to the position of City Manager on Monday, Dec. 10. Meyer is pleased and excited to begin serving as Tempe's City Manager, as well as to become one of Tempe's newest residents, along with his wife Deb.

Meyer joins us after serving the last four years as Chief Operating Officer in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, with a population of 435,000. Prior to that, he was City Manager of St Louis Park, Minnesota for 11 years and County Manager of Genesee County, New York for 12 years. Meyer is a graduate of New York University, with a Master of Public Administration.

"I look forward to working for a vibrant, progressive community," Meyer said. "Tempe has so much to offer to its residents, visitors and employees, and I am enthusiastic about working with the Mayor and Council to further improve our city."

The City Manager is a paid position under contract. The City Manager reports directly to the Mayor and Council and is responsible for professionally implementing all City Council policy decisions, efficiently directing the city's operations, and creating an organizational culture that results in the delivery of excellent municipal services to the residents of Tempe.

P.F. Chang's Rock and Roll Marathon

Thousands of runners will test their endurance in the P.F. Chang's Rock 'N' Roll Marathon, which winds through Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe on Sunday, Jan. 13. Live bands and 40 high school cheer squads will encourage runners along the course. A finish line awaits runners at Arizona State University, with Kool & The Gang playing at 8 p.m. to cap off the festivities.

The marathon begins at 7:40 a.m. and the half-marathon starts at 8:30 a.m.

Major freeways will be open, but expect delays, especially on I-10 around 7th Avenue and in downtown Phoenix from 6-9 a.m., and on the Loop 202 around Mill Avenue, Scottsdale Road and Rio Salado Parkway from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information on road closures in Tempe, visit www.tempe.gov/traffic/StreetClosures.



Voter ID required at the polls

The City of Tempe will conduct municipal elections in spring 2008. The Primary Election is March 11 and features a race for three open City Council seats. The General Election is May 20 and will consist of a run-off for any remaining Council seats, if needed.

Before receiving a ballot at the polling place on election day, every voter will be required to show proper proof of identity. Acceptable types of ID that can be used on election day are listed below. All identification must match the voter's name and address shown on the Maricopa County Elections signature roster.

PHOTO ID with voter's name and address – **ONE REQUIRED**

Valid Arizona driver's license or non-operating identification license

Tribal enrollment card or other form of tribal identification

Valid United States federal, state or local government issued identification

– **OR –**

NON-PHOTO ID with voter's name and address – **TWO REQUIRED**

- Utility bill dated within 90 days of the election. The bill may be for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, cellular telephone or cable TV.
- Bank or credit union statement dated within 90 days of the election
- Valid Arizona Vehicle Registration
- Indian Census Card
- Property Tax Statement for the voter's residence
- Tribal Enrollment Card or other form of tribal identification
- Vehicle Insurance Card
- Voter Registration Card or Recorder's Certificate
- Valid United States federal, state, or local government issued identification
- Any "Official Election Material" mailing bearing the voter's name and address

Check and update your identification now

Voters are encouraged to plan ahead and make sure that their IDs will be acceptable on election day.

- For photo IDs, make sure that the photo still looks like you
- Make sure that the name and address on the ID is current and matches the Maricopa County Elections signature roster. Call 602-506-1511 to verify information
- Be aware that if more than one person lives at your address, only the person whose name appears on the utility bill will be able to use that utility bill for identification purposes
- Couples, roommates and all family members in the same household will need to provide individual forms of identification

Provisional Ballots

If the voter does not have acceptable identification at the polling place on election day, a provisional ballot can be voted. The provisional ballot will only be counted if the voter brings acceptable identification for the Tempe City Clerk or the Maricopa County Recorder by 5 p.m. on March 14, the Friday after the election. On the three days following the election, the City Clerk's office will set up booths at the Tempe Public Library and in the Clerk's office on the second floor of Tempe City Hall for the purpose of checking voter identification for provisional ballots. Hours for checking IDs are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 12 through Friday, March 14.

If you have questions regarding voter identification for the upcoming elections, call the Tempe City Clerk's office at 480-350-8241 or visit www.tempe.gov/clerk and click on the "election" link.

Early Voting

A permanent early voting list is now available to voters. In November, voters were mailed permanent early ballot request cards for all upcoming elections in which they are eligible to vote. If you chose to be on the permanent early voting list by completing and returning the card, you will automatically receive an early ballot by mail. If you do not wish to be on the permanent early voting list, you may still request an early ballot by contacting the Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 (TTD 602-506-2348) or online at recorder.maricopa.gov. An early voting booth will be set up at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. and at Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St., from February 11 through March 7. Hours for early voting are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

METRO and city invite residents to discuss possible north-south high capacity transit

METRO, in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is conducting a 24-month study to analyze potential high capacity transit improvements in the cities of Tempe and Chandler. This study will evaluate a range of high capacity transit technologies (e.g., bus rapid transit, light rail and modern streetcar), as well as potential north-south alignments (e.g., Mill Avenue/Kyrene Road, Rural Road and McClintock Drive).

Public meetings will be held to provide project information and obtain community comments regarding high capacity transit service improvements in the study area. Public input will help METRO identify the route and transit technology that will provide the best transportation choices for Tempe and Chandler residents. Citizens, agencies, and community organizations are encouraged to attend the meetings.

- **Tuesday, Jan. 29, 6-8 p.m.**
Corona del Sol High School Cafeteria
1001 E. Knox Rd.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6-8 p.m.**
Tempe Public Library Program Room
3500 S. Rural Rd.

For more information or to make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Pamela Cecere at 602-385-1622 or pcecere@metrolightrail.org.

Neuter Scooter

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control offers a service to Valley residents, the Neuter Scooter, a self-contained surgical unit that offers spay and neuter procedures, low-cost vaccines, response to animal cruelty and neglect, triage for disasters, and other medical services.

The Neuter Scooter will be in Tempe on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the south parking lot of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. The Neuter Scooter will offer low-cost vaccines and licensing services on-site. No-cost spay and neuter vouchers will be available to those who qualify. For more information, visit www.maricopa.gov/pets.

Tempe's Boards and Commissions

Did you know that Tempe has 31 official Boards and Commissions that advise the City Council and make decisions on everything from high-rise residential developments to the city's only cemetery? They are established by city ordinance to fulfill specific roles. These groups can only function if they have enough qualified, engaged Tempe residents who want to serve their community. The city is always looking to fill vacancies on city Boards and Commissions, so visit www.tempe.gov/clerk/boards&commissions.htm to apply.

Over the next few months, Tempe Today will take a brief look at the various city Boards and Commissions and describe what they do:

Committee for Youth, Families and Community

Tempe's Committee for Youth, Families and Community was established in 1996 from a merge between the Tempe Alliance Against Drugs and the Mayor's Committee on Gangs. The committee aims to promote safe, healthy and dynamic environments in Tempe by identifying, recommending, and supporting programs and resources that engage our diverse individuals, families and communities of all ages.

Responsibilities include recommending effective practices for current issues or challenges facing Tempe residents; strengthening links between the community service system, non-profit and government agencies, schools and businesses; and bringing the needs of Tempe citizens to the attention of the City Council. The committee meets the third Monday of each month.

Commission on Disability Concerns

The Commission on Disability Concerns is made up of community members who have an interest in helping to advocate solutions to many of the issues that concern people with disabilities.

There are currently 3 active sub-committees, which work on everything from architectural barriers, to the Mayor's Awards for students and employers with disabilities, to surveys to gather information from Tempe parents of children with disabilities and their need for any further assistance from community school programs. The commission meets the third Tuesday of each month.

Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee

The Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee advises the City Council in establishing policies, rules and regulations relating to the planning, operation, maintenance and construction of city cemetery facilities.

With assistance from the Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board, the cemetery underwent an extensive master planning process that was completed in October 2002. This master plan resulted in a much needed renovation for the cemetery. Enhancements include additional burial sites, a gated entrance monument, garden improvements and other enhancements.

Tempe Double Butte Cemetery opened in 1897 on land donated by the Niels Petersen family and was eventually deeded to the city of Tempe in 1958. The committee meets bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month.

New Hearing Times for Development Review Commission and Board of Adjustment

Both the Development Review Commission (DRC) and the Board of Adjustment (BofA) have changed their hearing times to 6 p.m. from the current 7 p.m. start time, effective Jan. 1, 2008. The DRC is regularly scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The BofA is regularly scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month.



How Tempe got its name

The city of Tempe was named in 1879 by "Lord" Darrell Duppa, an Englishman with a flair for the dramatic. The site of the butte, the wide river and the nearby expanse of green fields reminded him of the Vale of Tempe in ancient Greece.

The Vale of Tempe, or "Tembi" in Greek, lies at the foot of Mount Olympus, home of the Greek gods. The goddess Artemis resided in the Vale of Tempe, along with her brother Apollo, and according to legend, was a favorite locale of many of the Greek gods due to its dramatic scenery. Literature and art of the nineteenth century often used the Vale of Tempe as a setting or as a reference for supreme beauty, whether natural, physical or spiritual.

It is unknown whether "Lord" Duppa had ever actually seen the Vale of Tempe, but he clearly had read many references to its scenery.



Calendar

City Council Meetings

The January/February schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

January 10, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

January 24, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

February 7, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

February 21, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor

Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor

P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember

Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember

Shana Ellis, Councilmember

Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember

Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Charlie Meyer, City Manager

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To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

City of Tempe
31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281
www.tempe.gov

News you can use

American Presidential Elections in Historical Perspective

Every four years Americans select a new president. How has that process evolved? How have parties selected candidates, and how have candidates sought the nation's highest office? Professor Brooks Simpson of the Arizona State University Department of History will enlighten the audience on this process and discuss the upcoming 2008 elections. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Tempe Connections Café on the main level of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. This program is made possible by the Arizona Humanities Council. For more information or to register, call 480-350-5511 or visit www.tempe.gov/library/events.

Free full-day kindergarten registration

Tempe Elementary staff will begin registering children for kindergarten on Tuesday, Jan. 29, and continue throughout the school year. All children turning five before Jan. 1, 2008, are eligible. Free full-day kindergarten is offered at all Tempe Elementary K-5 schools and Ward Traditional Academy and is available to all children living throughout the Valley. It's important to register early since classes fill up quickly. Special evening kindergarten registration will take place Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at all Tempe Elementary K-5 schools. Parents need to bring their child's certified birth certificate, immunization record and two verifications of residence. For more information, call 480-730-7321 or visit www.tempeschools.org/parents/register.htm

Walk N' Roll Dog Walk

On Jan. 26, bring your favorite friendly dog and join the 4th Annual Walk N' Roll Dog Walk from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tempe Town Lake. Sponsored by Power Paws Assistance Dogs, the 5K fun walk and wheelchair roll raises money to provide assistance dogs to people with disabilities. Your dog can enjoy games while you enjoy live bands, a silent auction and free mini-massages. Outback Steakhouse is providing lunch to the first 500 registered and checked-in participants. Registration starts at \$25. For more information, visit www.azpowerpaws.org/Default.aspx?tabid=564.

Walk to D'Feet ALS

On Jan. 19, join the Walk to D'Feet ALS to raise money to fight Lou Gehrig's disease at Tempe Beach Park. Sponsored by ALS, the 3.1-mile walk is free but donations are welcome. Proceeds benefit ALS national research and local patient service programs.

This walk is wheelchair-friendly, and even leashed dogs and cats are welcome. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Free food and refreshments will be given to participants. For more information, call 602-297-3800 or send an e-mail to walk@alsaz.org.

City Hall parking changes

Beginning mid-January, the East City Hall parking lot will be closed to allow construction of a parking garage, which will include public parking for City Hall, Marriott Hotel and the general public. Parking for City Council meetings and other City Hall business is available along Sixth Street, in the Brickyard parking garage, Hayden Square parking garage and Centerpoint surface lot. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov. The city also has more than 15 bus routes that serve the downtown Tempe area. For bus route and schedule information, visit www.valleymetro.org or call 602-253-5000.

Academic Connections program offers college courses for adults

Sign up for classes with Academic Connections, a partnership between Tempe Connections and the Emeritus College of Arizona State University that offers college-level courses to older adults free of charge. Participants will receive no academic credit for these classes, and there are no final exams. Classes are offered from January 22 through February 27. Each class is limited to 20 participants, and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Classes will meet in the Tempe Connections Café, on the main level of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. For more information on classes offered or to register, call 480-350-5494.